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THE

UNGRATEFUL FAIR.

H E noble City of Valencia, Capital of the Kingdom of the fame Name, gave Birth to Gerarda, Sifter to the Marquis of Guadalest, and the most celebrated Beauty of her

Time. As such she had many Admirers among the prime Nobility; but the Person that most signalized himself in that amorous Enterprize, was Don Vincent, Marquis of Albaida, who being Master of a most plentiful Fortune, exceeded all others in Gallantry upon all publick Occasions; so that his Competitors, being unable to cope with him, and sinding he had some Encouragement from Gerarda, desisted from their Courtship, leaving the Marquis alone to gain her Favour, which was to him the greatest Satisfaction imaginable; and thereupon he grew so proud

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and conceited, that he was hated by most Men, and not well lik'd by the Marquis of Guadalest, tho' he thought him a good Match for his Sister.

However, the Marquis de Albaida was not long without a Rival; for a Picture of Gerarda happening to be carry'd into Catalonia, and there feen by Don Garceran de Moncada, Marshal of that Kingdom, he took such a liking to the Lady, that he immediately refolv'd to fet out for Valencia, to court and endeavour to gain her. The Marshal was very rich, being just come to a great Estate left him by his Father. Accordingly he furnish'd a most magnificent Equipage, with the most coftly Furniture, a Friend of his having hir'd a stately House for him at Valencia. There he was visited by all the prime Men of the City, who were much taken with his Mein and courteous Behaviour. The Marquis de Guadalest contracted much Friendship with him, which was as good a Beginning as he could defire, as believing that a confiderable Step towards the gaining of his Sifter. The Marshal soon began to discover his amorous Defign, to the no fmall Mortification of the Marquis de Albaida, who could not bear with any Competitor; tho' at the same time the Conceit he had of himself, and the Countenance Gerarda gave him, made him despise ali

all others. Several Entertainments of Mufick and other Diversions were given by the Marquis and the Marshal, wherein the latter always out-shin'd his Rival, as being the wealthieft and the most generous of the two. which touch'd him to the Quick, and yet whatfoever Attempts he made, he could not come up to the Marshal's Magnificence. his Comfort was, that the Lady feem'd to favour him; whereas the Catalonian, notwithstanding all his Endeavours, could not gain the least upon her; whilst the Marquis and Gerarda held a constant Correspondence of Billet-doux, unknown to any but one of her Women, and one of his Servants, which if he could have been fenfible of, would have been a mortal Stroke to the Marshal, who spar'd no Cost to bribe her Servants; but they finding her averse, never dar d to advance any thing in favour of the Marshal.

The Marquis of Guadalest could have wish'd that the Marquis of Albaida had desisted from his Courtship, that the Stage might remain clear for the Marshal; and he was concern'd that he had made no Overtures to him of marrying his Sister, whence he concluded that the Fault must be on his Sister's side, tho' she carried all things so privately, that no Judgment could be made of what she thought, by her Behaviour. The Marquis there-

therefore, still hoping that she might be indifferent to either Lover, and being himself inclin'd to favour the Marshal, on Account of the Friendship contracted between them, resolved to sound her Intentions, proposing it to her to dispose of herself in Matrimony, and accordingly being left alone with her one Day after Dinner, he open'd his Mind to this esset.

' Dear Sifter, our Father, who is I hope in ' Bliss, having left me not only Heir to his ' Estate, but under an Obligation to perform ' all that was incumbent on him, it is my · Duty to provide for you before I dispose of ' myself; and having therefore consider'd ' that no Man can be a fitter Husband for ' you than the Marshal of Catalonia; I pro-' pose him to you. His Quality is well ' known; his Estate is great; as for his Per-' fon, you see none more graceful; in Wit ' few come near him; for his Conditions he ' is affable and courteous; all which Quali-· fications render him worthy the Favour of the greatest Lady, who may think herself ' happy in him. You very well know how ' much I am his Friend, and it is for the Ad-' vantage of our Family to be ally'd to his; ' I have told you what I think is proper for " us; we are by ourfelves, now let me know ' your Mind.

Gerarda had given great Attention to her Brother's Words, and could have wish'd he had spoke in favour of the Marquis, being much concerned to find him so well affected to the Marshal; but being unwilling to discover her Affection, she put him off with this sly Answer.

'I am very sensible, dear Brother, that what you propose, is with a Design to set-' tle me in the World to my best Advantage, and to provide for my Satisfaction. As to the first part of what you mention, if it be no hindrance to your disposing of yourfelf, I could willingly wait a Year or two 'longer, if you thought fit, confidering how ' young I am; for tho' I am satisfied you will never go about to match me below my ' Quality, or to my Dissatisfaction, I am as ' yet unwilling to bring myfelf into fub. ' jection to the Will of another, when I may yet without Prejudice be my own Mistress fome time longer. Give me leave therefore to repeat it, that if it be no Obstacle to your marrying, which it cannot be, as being lawful, I had rather fee you married ' first, that I may express how sensible I am of my Obligations to you, by the Respect 'I shall pay to the Lady you shall think fit ' to bestow yourself on. Besides, it will not be proper for us to make the Overture to the

' the Marshal, since he has not propos'd it to

you, as of right ought to have been done;

for I am not so despicable as to be obliged

to court an Husband. I am sensible of that Gentleman's courtly Behaviour, which is

all levell'd at me; but there is another that

· vyes with him, and I defire this Respite to

be able to judge which of the two Compe-

' titors best deserve me. Let me therefore

intreat you to allow me leifure to make this

' Judgment before I return a positive An-

' fwer.

The Marquis comply'd with his Sister's Request, tho' he could not but suspect, by her last Words, that she was well affected towards the Marquis de Albaida. This made him the more attentive to observe the Proceedings of the two Rivals, and the Reception they met with. Gerarda acquainted her favourite Marquis with what had pass'd between her Brother and herself, whereupon he conceiv'd such mortal Hatred against the Marshal, that he only waited an Opportunity to shew the Effects of his Resentment.

The Marquis de Albaida understanding that his Mistress would not admit of a Serenade, bespoke all the best Vocal and Instrumental Musick that the City of Valencia could afford. When the appointed Night came, the Street was throng'd with People, and the Windows

full of Ladies, not a little envious of the The Musicians Honour done to Gerarda. perform'd their Parts to the great Satisfaction of all the Hearers; but above all Gerarda was not a little proud to fee herfelf made the Subject of the Entertainment of that great City. The Marshal was present among the rest at this Entertainment, with some regret for having been prevented in that Piece of Courtship; and resolving not to be out-done. would not make use of the Musicians of Valencia; but at a great Expence procur'd a full Set of Musick from the Court of Spain, confifting of the ablest Masters in the Kingdom, making all other Preparations during the time that they were coming. Publick Notice was given what Night the Serenade was to be perform'd, and the Refort to it was rather greater than to the former, something extraordinary being expected, as well there might from fuch coftly Preparations. rarda would willingly have been abfent, on pretence of some Indisposition, but her Brother compell'd her to appear in the Balcony, as the had done for the Marquis. At the appointed Hour four Triumphal Chariots fet out from the Marshal's House, most richly adorn'd and illuminated with a Multitude of Wax Flambeaux. In the first were Trumpets and Hautboys; in the second, the Waits; in

the third, all other forts of Musical Instruments; and the last, being like a stately Pavilion, drawn by Milk-white Horfes, was fill'd with the best Voices in Spain. Chariots of Instrumental Musick first play'd their Parts as they pass'd along, and then the last of them joining with the Vocal, they both together made a most ravishing Harmony, to the inexpressible Satisfaction of all that partook of it; only the Marquis of Albaida, who was also present with four Ruffians he entertain'd to guard him in his Debauches, could not take any Satisfaction in that delightful Confort; but feeing himfelf fo far out-done, and that Gerarda was in her Balcony, Envy and a jealous Rage fo far prevail'd above all Sense of Humanity, that observing the Marshal, who sat in the last of the four Triumphal Chariots with four of his Friends, he commanded one of his aforefaid wicked Followers to fire a Piftol at him, loaded with a Brace of Bullets. The Varlet at the first Word, obey'd his Master's Command; but the Marshal having by good Fortune been aware of his Adversary, by a small Motion of his Body escap'd the Danger, the Balls lighting on a Musician that fat near him. He knowing from whence the Mifchief came, and that it had been design'd against himself, immediately leap'd out of

the Chariot, with his Sword drawn, and making at the Marquis, who was also drawn, in his Fury at the first Pass stuck him thro' the Heart, fo that he dropp'd down dead upon the Spot: Seeing him fall, with the Affiftance of his Friends, he foon drove away the Servants; but in a Moment all the Street was in an Uproar. The Officers of Justice came Swarming in an inftant, and the Marshal to avoid falling into their Hands, away among the Croud. Most of those that had been present were convinc'd that the Marquis had been the Occasion of his own Death, and fo it was publickly declar'd; but being ally'd to many Persons of Note in the City, all his Relations made it their Bufiness to have the Marshal secur'd, whilst he provided for his own Safety, taking Sanctuary that Night in a Monastery of Fryars, where he continued very reftless to think that he could never again appear in the Kingdom of Valencia, and would not be fafe in Catalonia. Before the next Morning he was visited by the Marquis of Guadalest and other Friends. who all advised him to make the best of his way by Sea to Barcelona. He took his leave of them, and with only two Servants went aboard a Brigantine, and immediately weigh'd anchor and hoisted fail, to the great Grief of B 2 the

of the noble Catalonian, for the Loss of his much admir'd Gerarda.

We must leave him upon the Sea for awhile to return to Valencia, which was all in an Uproar on account of what has been mention'd; the Marshal being every where fought after, as well by the proper Officers of Justice, as by the Marquis de Albaida's To prevent all Diforders, the Relations. Vice Roy confin'd all the Marquis's Kindred to their Houses, for fear lest there should be any Scuffles between them and the Marshal's Friends. The Marquis of Guadalest behav'd himself very discreetly, not espousing his Friend's Quarrel, tho' he had favour'd him before, but rather pretended to be difgufted with him, faying, He was much concern'd that his Sifter should be so courted; but that having conniv'd 'at the Marquis de Albaida's Serenade, he could not in justice have oppos'd the other.

This may suffice as to both Parties in general; to come to the beautiful Gerarda, she was so highly concern'd at the Marquis's Death, that all her Art could not conceal her Sorrow; which her Brother easily perceiv'd, who blam'd her for not having acquainted him sooner with her Affection, that Means might have been us'd to know the Marquis's Intention. Yet at the same time he blam'd

him,

him, as he had done the Marshal before, for not having been more forward in proposing to take her to Wife, and was apt to believe he had forbore to do it out of his vain Temper, as expecting that the Lady should be offer'd to him. In short, Gerarda was continually weeping when alone, and always melancholy in Company. All her Friends observ'd it, and knew the Occasion. Many Months pass'd away in this manner, during which, the least Smile was never feen upon her Face, but she often gave her Brother fome Hints as if the were defirous to become a Nun. Many Brothers would have taken her at her first Word, to possess themselves of her Fortune, which was very confiderable; but the Marquis was fo good that he would not hear of her taking that Course of Life upon a Difguft, wishing rather that it might wear off and she marry. Some Offers were made to her; but being under this Affliction, fhe would hearken to none, which gave her Brother some Uneafiness, being desirous to dispose of her before he enter'd himself upon the State of Matrimony. Whenfoever the Marshal happen'd to be mention'd in Gerarda's hearing, she spoke so maliciously of him as sufficiently testified the Hatred she bore him; and the once told fome of her more familiar Friends, that she had never wish'd

wish'd to have been a Man till then, that she might find out the Marshal and kill him; which those Ladies were far from approving of, seeing her Prejudice run so high, when all unbias'd Persons were fully satisfied that the Marquis had sufficiently provok'd the Marshal to do what he did. We will leave her to her Sullenness, and return to the Marshal.

He had been two Days out at Sea, when the Sailor that look'd out gave notice that he perceiv'd three Galliots, and believ'd them to be Moors, at about three Leagues distance Nor was he deceiv'd, for it was not long before they came up with the Brigantine, commanding them to ftrike. There was no Poffibility of making any Defence against so superior a Power, so that they immediately lower'd their Sails, much against the Marshal's Inclination, whose Valour prompted him to attempt what was not feafible. Infidels enter'd, feizing all they found, and conveying the Men into their own Ships, and among them the Marshal, who was ready to die with Vexation. Haly Rustan, then a noted Pyrate, commanded thefe three Galliots. The Captives being brought before him, he examin'd every one of them, as to his Quality. The Marshal said he was a Soldier of Fortune, for fear of raising his Ransom, had he he confess'd himself to be a Person of such Distinction. Having secur'd them all, the Rovers cruiz'd along the Coast of Valencia; and when having taken some other Prizes. made the best of their way home again to Algiers, where they came to an Anchor, after they had been a Month abroad. There they landed all their Booty; a confiderable Part whereof confifted in above 200 Captives, whom they expos'd to fale the next Day in the Market-place, and among them the Marshal, whom they had stripp'd of his Clothes. and in lieu thereof given him a blew Waftecoat, Linnen Breeches, a red Cap, and a loofe Garment in the nature of a Scotch Plad to throw about him. In this Habit our noble Catalonian was expos'd to fale, difinally reflecting on the wretched Condition his ill Fate had brought him to. Several rich Citizens of Algier came to purchase Slaves, many of them making very confiderable Returns of their Money, when they happen to be ranfom'd. Among the rest of the Buyers was Muley Offun, a rich Man, Coufin-German to the King of Algier, who had a great number of Christian Slaves in four Baths, so they call the Places where they shut them up at Night. He fixing his Eyes on the Marshal, who went by the Name of William, which he had taken to avoid being known, lik'd him,

him, and gave Haly Rustan's Factor an Hund dred Pieces of Eight for him. By the way home he said to him in broken Spanish; Now, Christian, you are mine; follow me, and be thankful that you have been so fortunate as to meet with so good a Master. The Marshal, whom we must now call William, made his Obeysance, saying, I have always been so unfortunate, that this will be my first lucky Adventure: I am well pleas'd to be your Servant, and shall always endeavour to oblige you. Thus he follow'd him home altogether disconsolate, as not knowing how to get ransom'd without discovering himsfelf.

Muley liv'd very near the King's Palace, as being his Relation. The House was large. and as foon as come to it, the Moor call'd his Daughter, being the only Child he had by fix Wives, and being himfelf old, thought no more of marrying, living with that Daughter, who had twelve Christian Women Slaves to wait on her. Zelidora, fo the young Lady was call'd, coming out at her Father's Command, he faid to her, ' Dear Child, I have just now bought this Slave, and by his ' Mien guess him to be well born, tho' he will not own it. He fays, he is a Soldier of Fortune that was returning to Barcelona where he was born, the Christian Princes being at Peace, so that he wanted Employ-" ment."

ment.' This was what the Marshal had told his Mafter as they were going home from the Market. Zelidora fixed her Eyes on William, as we must call him hereafter, and was so taken with him, that her Affection still increasing, it became a great Affliction to the unfortunate Gentleman. asked his Name; he answered it was William and that he was a native of Catalonia. Next fhe enquired, whether he was marry'd, and had any Estate in his Country. To the first he faid, he was a Batchelor, as was true; but to the fecond, he dealt not fo ingenuously, faying, he had already told her Father, that he was a poor Soldier, born of honest Parents. who having many Sons, had fent fome of them into the Army, and others to the University; but that for his Part he had taken to the martial Profession, in hopes of advancing himself. The more they talk'd, the more Zelidora gaz'd at William, and gazing began to love; fo that to have him within her reach, she desired her Father to employ him to look to the Garden, his Predecessor there being lately dead. Muley Ofmin granted her Request, which was some advantage to William, in that he was not put to the Oar, or other hard Labour, as most Slaves were.

Accordingly William was appointed to be Gardener, which was no fmall satisfaction to Zelidora, for that she should have an opportunity to talk to her Slave when she thought fittest, which she could easily do, as speaking Spanish to great Perfection, having been taught it by some of her Women Slaves. William had a little Chamber affigned him in the Garden, where the necessary Utenfils for it were kept, and he had a poor Bed, fuch as a Slave could expect. There, being instructed by another Andalusian Slave, appointed for that purpose, he began to dress the Garden, endeavouring to pleafe his Master and Mistress, in order to gain their favour. Zelidora had acquainted her Women Slaves, how she had a new Gardener, called William, highly commending him, which made them long to be acquainted with him. and particularly one of them that was a Catalonian, born in Barcelona, who had been taken going over to Naples. She intreated Zelidora to go down in the Evening into the Garden, who eafily complied, being herfelf very earnest to see her Gardener. After Dinner they all went down, and found William, with his Andalusian Companion, whose Name was Laurence, trimming a Bank of Southernwood, cut in the shape of an Heart with a Cypher in the middle, and Emblems round about.

about, the Cypher containing the Name of Gerarda, which he had performed fo artificially, having learnt to Draw, that his Companion was amazed at it, not being able to do any thing like it, tho' he had been above two Years at that work. Zelidora and her Women drew near fo gently among the Boughs and Hedges that they were not difcovered, and then stood to observe what the Gardeners were about. The Catalonian female Slave, fixing her Eyes on William, immediately knew him to be the Marshal of Catalonia, and was not a little grieved to fee him reduced to so mean a Condition; but, because it might do him a Prejudice, resolved not to take Notice that she knew him. fhe had a referve in this Particular, feeling a more than ordinary Inclination for him in her Heart, tho' she then concealed it. Zelidora defigning to flew herfelf, made fome Noise among the Boughs, whereupon the Gardeners looked about, to fee who was in the Garden, and having 'fpy'd her, advanced to meet her, with all the submission and respect that is due from Slaves to their Owners, which is to be ftrictly observed, otherwise they will be severely punished, as haughty and unmannerly. Zelidora spoke first, in Spanish, and faid, ' I am glad, Wil-· l'am, to see you are so diligent, for the 'Servant's

' Servant's care gains the affection of the Mafter. By your Dexterity, I am inclined to believe, that you have been employed ' in this fort of Work before now. Tell me ' the truth.' ' Madam, replied William, my 'Thoughts never stooped so low as this fort of Work, for I always aspired to things of an higher Nature; but in my tender ' Years I learnt to Draw, in order to proceed to Painting, and now it stands me in ' stead, as being proper for a Gardener, and ' I have made use of my Skill in order to ' please you.' What are you cutting out there, faid Zelidora?' The first thing that ' come into my Head, answered William? ' Not so, replied Zelidora, for I observe you ' have taken much Pains to embellish that Heart with Emblems, whence I conclude ' you had a Miftress in your own Country, ' and still your Mind runs on her; for doubt-' less that Cypher in the middle, which I do ' not understand, is the Lady's Name, which ' you preferve there to refresh your Memory.' ' Madam, faid William, you do me wrong, for I ' have no Mistress in Spain, nor is it proper ' for a Soldier to engage his Heart, fince he is obliged to quit the beloved Object when soever ' the Drum beats. That Heart denotes my own, and those Emblems about it are the thoughts of the Happiness I lost in being 'deprived

' deprived of my Liberty.' And what means ' that Cypher in the midst of it, rejoined Ze-' lidora.' That is no Cypher, answered again William, but a Knot by way of Ornament.' " I cannot believe that, faid the Moorish Lady, for I have feen that Character before, ' in the Writings of Christians. Is it not fo · Constance? added she, turning to the Catalonian female Slave, who bore that Name.' ' It is, Madam, replied Constance, that Letter ' is a G, and is the first in some Name to whom that Heart is dedicated; and if all ' the Plot were finished with the Cypher, I ' could guess at the Name; for I have some ' skill in Cyphers, which are used in embroidery.' Zelidora then looked upon her Gardener, and observed that he was out of Countenance at what Constance had faid; which made her conclude it had touched him to the quick. This gave her fome Uneasiness, as imagining that he had left some Mistress in Spain, if not a Wife, and she wished he had been free from any such Ingagement, that she might have him to her felf. However, she would not at that time examine any farther into the Matter, but walked about the Garden, attended by the Men and Women Slaves, much delighted with William's Discourse, asking him many Questions concerning his Country, try, and pleas'd with his Answers, which fill added Fuel to the Love that was already kindled in her Breaft. Towards Night she withdrew into her Apartment, where discoursing with her Women Slaves, the again much extolled William, which not a little gauled Constance, who having a Kindness for him herself, did not approve of Zelidora's Commendations. Whereupon the resolved to contrive to meet him alone. to endeavour to gain his love. Confiance was beautiful and discreet, besides other good Qualities, as playing on feveral Inftruments of Musick, and having a sweet melodious Voice, which had gained very much upon Zelidora, fo that she was her chief Favourite.

They sometimes walked in the Garden with William, whose pleasant Conversation was a great Entertainment to them both, tho' he found little Satisfaction in their Company, he coveting rather to be alone, that he might employ his Thoughts on his beloved Gerarda; for tho' he had never been favoured by her, his Love was so perfect, that he could never think of any other Object. Zelidora was wont in the Summer Nights to go down into the Garden with her Slaves, and sit by a Fountain, where Constance diverted her with singing.

One of these Nights the Moorish Lady being very penfive, and musing how she might give her Gardener to understand that she loved him, the went away, attended only by Constance, to his Hovel, at the time when he having left Laurence, his Companion, asleep, was gone out, by reason of the great heat of that Place, and had feated himself under a fpreading Orange Tree. There he gave a loofe to his thoughts, contriving how he might recover his Liberty, either by way of Ranfom, or making his Escape; though having a good Voice, and believing no Body had heard him, he fang an amorous Song he had himself made, naming Gerarda, and bewailing his absence from her. Zelidora could not but feel some Effects of Jealousy, nor was Constance free from the same, being no less in love than her Mistress, who pretending the Heat had brought her out to take the Air, made use of this Opportunity to converse with her Gardener, who little thought of fuch a Visit; but hearing some Noise, started up and cry'd, Who is there? One that feeks some ease from the Heat, ' answered Zelidora, and accidentally disco-· vered in you a Perfection before unknown, ' which is your Skill in Musick, and by the Words you fung, that you are not fo free ' from Love as you pretend? The disconfolate

folate Slave was concerned to have been fo furprized, and faid, 'The fame Motive, Madam, that has brought you hither, prevail'd with me to feek some Repose under this ' Tree, and being lonesome I took the liberty to try my unskilful Voice.' I do not think ' it fuch, reply'd the Lady, for the Voice is only good, but improved by Skill, whence I conclude that you have been ' taught.' I had a Master in my tender ' Years, rejoyned the Slave, but taking ' afterwards into the Army, I made no far-' ther Progress.' Another fort of Passion has ' feiz'd your Heart, faid Zelidora, as I per-' ceive by your Words.' You mistake me, ' Madam, replied William, it was the absence ' from my Country I bemoaned under those "Words you speak of.' It is in vain you ' endeavour to disguise your Passion, answer'd ' the Lady, for you nam'd your Mistress, ' and expressed what a Satisfaction it would be to you if she did but know how much ' you sufter for her sake. Be so complaisant as ' to give me some Account of your Amour, to ' divert me a-while.' I will do all that lies ' in my Power to serve, faid the Slave, but ' in this Particular cannot comply with your ' Desire, because I am not under those Cir-' cumftances of Love. The Song no doubt was made by fome amorous Person, but I apply'd

apply'd the Sense to my real Captivity'

which is my only Affliction.'

The Lady then fate down; bidding Constance to leave her alone, who, being jealous that Zelidora had fome Kindness for William, withdrew no farther than just to hide herfelf behind some Trees, where she might hear all that was spoken. When they two were left to themselves, the Lady spoke thus: 'Now Constance is gone, I am resolved you shall tell me what Mistress you have in Spain, for I have a particular Reason to require it.' The Catalonian did not think it proper to disclose his Secret, and therefore answer'd in this manner: 'The Favour I enjoy, Madam, under your Protection, in being exempted from those heavy Toils other Slaves undergo, is a fufficient Obligation to prevail with me to conceal no-' thing from you; so that you may be affur'd that if I were under those Circumstances that my Song feemed to express, I should freely acquaint you with every Particular; but Love has never subdued my Heart, or if it had, could I expect to be favour'd by ' any Lady.' Tell me the truth, quoth Zeli-· dora.' You may give entire Credit to what ' I have faid, answered he, and accordingly ' if you have any thing to impart, you may freely do it.' The amorous Zelidora believ'd him.

him, and accordingly proceeded, faying, Since you affure me, William, that what ' you fay is true, I cannot forbear, now we are by ourselves, acquainting you, that I have been much taken with your Person, ' fince the first Moment I beheld you; for ' tho', as is usual among Slaves, to make their Ranfom the easier, you conceal your Qua-' lity, I plainly perceive you are a greater Man than you give out. I am my Father's only Daughter; for me he hoards up immenfe Wealth, which is the Caufe why ' many of the Prime Moors aspire to marry me, besides my being of the Blood Royal. ' I like none, and am pleas'd with one thing ' in the Christian Religion, which is, that ' a Man can have but one Wife; and were that the Custom among us, I should have · been disposed of before now; but as they ' are allow'd to have many Wives, I would rather never marry than bear with fo many ' Rivals. I like you, and should be well ' pleas'd you would quit your Religion, and ' take me for your Wife; for I know my Father loves me fo well that he will ap-· prove of my Choice, upon Condition that · you shall have no other Wife but me. · Confider how favourably Fortune smiles ' on you, in making fo advantagious an · Offer. I will not have your Answer just now.

now, left you should hereafter say it came

from you by furprize.'

The Captive was amazed at Zelidora's Propofal; and it troubled him the more in regard it depriv'd him of all Hopes of being ever ranfom d. In this Confusion he stood a-while, till recovering himfelf by degrees, he returned this Answer: 'The Honour you offer me, Madam, is fo great, that I should ' feem insensible, did it not fill me with furprize. However, tho' you allow me more time, I rather chuse to undeceive you immediately. As for my Quality it is no ' more than what I have told you; yet tho' ' fo great an Happiness offers as the possessing ' of you, I must be plain that I will never ' fortake the Christian Religion to gain the whole World. This is my final Refolu-' tion, were I to live Ages, and to be con-' demned to the most miserable Servitude. These Words pierced Zelidora to the Heart; however, the suppress'd her Concern, confidering that the Repulse was not out of dislike to her Person, but out of zeal for his Religion, which fo few Christians can be periwaded to renounce. All she said to him was this: 'Tho' you have given me a ' short Answer, I would have you consider of it at leifure, for the Proposal I have f made

e made you, does not deserve to be so little ' regarded; besides that, many have quitted their Religion and embraced ours upon more inconfiderable Encouragement.' I do not deny that, Madam, replied William, but such Men were either stupid, or else God had forfaken them, as is most likely, and therefore they renounced their Reli-' gion; but I do assure you, that as long as ' it shall please Heaven to préserve me in my right Wits, I shall never depart from 'my Faith.' With this Zelidora took leave of her Slave, in great Anguish to find him To resolute and constant in his Religion. Constance, who had heared all that passed between them, was much furprized, as well at the Discovery Zelidora had made, as at the Christian's generous Resolution; tho' she was fenfible that he had a better Estate of his own at home than that the Moore offered him; and that being a Man of fuch Quality it was nothing strange in him rather to die than renounce his Faith: However, she did not despair of succeeding herself, and so went away to meet her Lady in her Apartment. Zelidora came in very melancholy. and began to undress herself without speaking one Word. Constance well knew the Reason; yet to draw something from her, faid; 'What has the Gardener done to dif-'oblige

oblige you, Madam, that you are to pen-' five, whereas you were very pleasant when ' you went down?' Ask no Questions, an-' fwered the Lady, for I wish I had died ' rather than gone down into the Garden.' Will you not condescend to tell me the Reason, replied Constance,' to try whether The was so much in favour as to extort that Secret from her. 'Since you press me so home, faid 'Zelidora, you must understand that I have had a Kindness for William ever fince I faw him, and it daily increases; and the more, for that I plainly perceive ' he is no mean Person. I have discovered my Love to him, upon Condition he will ' renounce his Religion and embrace ours. ' The first Part he feems to approve of; but as for the fecond he declares he will never quit his Faith for all the Advantages the World can offer him.' You will find all ' Christians of the same Mind, rejoined Con-' stance, as being fully convinced of the ' Truth of their Religion; and tho' fome have Apostatized, you must consider that "William was born in a Country where the ' People are most tenacious of their Prin-' ciples; besides that he is a Man of a clear 'Understanding, and such are harder to be ' drawn into Error than the Ignorant.' I do not for all that Despair, quoth Zelidora, but

' that William may some time requite my ' Affection.' As a Gallant, reply'd Confrance, perhaps he may, but you will never forfeit your Reputation fo much, as to admit of ' him in that Capacity.' That is very true, answered Zelidora, but time may overcome ' greater Difficulties, and we have found " means to oblige Slaves that are obstinate, to renounce their Faith.' All that may , be, said Constance, the Power of Beauty is almost uncontroulable, and yours is so ex-' traordinary that scarce no Man can with-' stand it.' This said, Zelidora went to Bed, as did Constance to her's, resolving to make trial whether William could be brought to Love her. Nor was it long before the met with a proper Opportunity to found him. The next Day after Dinner, she went down into the Garden to gather some Flowers, and meeting with William made towards him, who concluded she had come on some Errand from her Lady. After the first Salutation, fhe accosted him in this manner: 'It is in ' vain for you, William, to deny your being ' in Love, for I have twice heard you name ' your Mistress Gerarda, and the Songs seem ' to have been made to fuit your Condition.' 'That is your Mistake, answered William, ' for these I sing are common printed Songs, ' and perhaps he that made them might be under

' under my Circumstances.' I am willing to ' believe you, reply'd Constance, for as much as it fuits best with me that you should be exempt from Love, for I have a Message ' to deliver to you.' If it be from Zelidora, rejoyned William, do not deliver it, for I ' have already answered her, that I will endure the most exquisite Torment rather than renounce my Religion to marry her.' So ' far you are in the right, faid Constance; but ' you are wide of what I defign to fay to. you; which is, that I have a Meffage to ' deliver to you from one of my Companions, ' a Christian Slave to Zelidora, who is much ' in love with you, and defires you will meet her in some private Place, where she ' may tell you more of her Mind.' I wish, answered William, you had forbore interopoling for that Slave; my troubles are fo ' great, that I can think of nothing elfe, and am therefore altogether unfit for amorous Intrigues, tho' I thank her for her Kind-' ness.' I should be very forry, replied · Constance, to carry her fuch a scornful An-' fwer, which her Affection does not deserve. · You are not the first that has fallen into ' Captivity, and I am ashamed that being ' my Countryman your Courage should fail ' you, especially confidering that you do not fare as hard as many others. Chear up, and · let

e let it not be faid that a Spaniard finks under his Misfortunes; for even we Women behave ourselves with more Resolution than you do. Now to clear up the Matter, I am myfelf the Perfon I have spoke of; be not therefore ungrateful to my Love, for being fo much in favour with Zelidora, it may be in my Power to do you Service. William was much concerned at the Confidence Constance had shewn him in acquainting him with her Passion, and accordingly endeavoured to divert her with these Words: It is not in my Power, Constance, to bestow my Affection on any Body; for, tho' I have hitherto deny'd it, I have left one in Spain whom I can never forget. It is more honourable to deal plainly with you than otherwise; and fince it is impossible for me to love you, rest satisfied, and be assured I will do you all the Service that shall be in " my Power.' Now I have gone through the ' Shame of making fuch a Discovery, replied Constance, you will do well to consider it ' may be in my Way to shew myself your Enemy, if you continue fo ungrateful! William nevertheless again solemnly declared that he could never love her, for the Reason he had before urged; nor did the flight fo much provoke her, as the conceit that he had some Kindness for Zelidora however.

however, she resolved to make another trial of him, which still proved no more successful than the former. This Disappointment incenfed her to highly, that having one Day made use of all forts of Allurements to gain him, the had the Confidence to express her felf in these Words: 'I did not flatter my felf that you should requite my Love by making me your Wife, but only that you would have made some grateful return, which would have no way derogated from ' your Birth; for I am not so contemptible but that many have courted me. To be kind to a Woman that loves is not below ' any Gentleman, though he were the very " Marshal of Catalonia, where I was born-Your scornful Behaviour has so far provoked me, that I shall not fail acquainting · my Lady who you are, which will prevent your gaining your Liberty; for the' I know you are wealthy enough to pay your Ran-' fom, the Love of a Moorish Lady will obstruct it; and I will perswade her to it as far as shall be in my Power.' This faid, the withdrew, leaving him much cast down at the Thoughts that he should be known in that Place; and tho' he endeavoured to call her back, she would not be prevailed on to return.

His Apprehensions were not ill grounded; for Constance perceiving that Zelidora's Heart was fixed upon him, in Revenge told her who he was, which was adding Fuel to the Fire, being told he was a Man of fuch Quality. Being fensible how tenderly she was beloved by her Father, she took the liberty to discover her Passion to him, and the Quality of their Slave. He defiring nothing more than to make his Daughter happy. gave his Confent that fhe should endeavour to gain him by fair Means, and in case that did not prevail to make use of Threats, and even to put them in execution, which had prevailed with many to renounce their Faith. It was needless to inculcate his Advice; she well knew how to apply it, and accordingly went about to perswade her Slave to comply from that very Day, till finding him not to be mov'd, the first Piece of Cruelty she exercifed was the branding of him in the Forehead as a Slave, which went to his very Heart, looking upon all the ill that befel him to be occasioned by Constance; nor was he deceived, for the branding of him on the Face was her Contrivance; whereupon he refolved to make himself known to his Mafter, to the End that he might use him the better, as expecting a confiderable Ranfom for a Man of fuch high Quality. Muley underunderstanding that his Daughter was in love with him, had no fuch thoughts; and accordingly told him, that he was not his Slave but his Daughter's, and therefore all he had to do was to please and oblige her. reduced the Marshal to a State of Despair; but still he resolutely withstood all his Lady's Allurements; whereupon Constance advised her to put him to hard Labour, notwithstanding he had made himself known to her That Moor was then building a stately Country House, about which Work not only his own but many Slaves of his Friends were employed. The Marshal was fent thither, and kept to the most painful Employments, which he endeavoured to perform with wonderful Patience. During this time Zelidora was wont every Evening to repair thither to endeavour to perswade him to comply with her Defires, but all in vain-In this Condition he continued above a Year and an half, always exposed to the greatest Fatigues; so that his Complexion and his Face were quite altered. Perceiving that Zelidora's Importunity never ceased, and that of Confequence there was no expectation of his being ever ranfomed, he refolved to attempt some Way to make his escape.

From the time that Zelidora had began to persecute the Marshal, he had been every

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Night

Night shut up among the other Slaves, in one of those Places they have for that Purpose, which they call Baths; and though that Severity was not practifed towards the others, yet he was ftrongly fertered, only to compel him to renounce his Religion. The Marshal concerted with the rest of the Captives the Method how they might make their Escape. This was not to be effected without fome Veffel to carry them off by Sea, and therefore they waited for a proper Opportunity to surprize one fit for their turn. It was not long before a Brigantine came to an Anchor in a convenient Place. Then the Marshal ordered the Slaves every Night to take their Turns at Work to dig out some Stones of the Wall to make them a Passage. This Work was dexterously carried on unperceived, till brought to fuch Perfection that a very little Force would remove the Stones. The Slaves had also taken care of Provisions and all other Necessaries for their Voyage. The Night whereon they were to put their Design in execution being come, Muley's Slaves, being above two Hundred in Number, gave out that it was the Eve of a great Christian Festival, for which Reason they provided Drums, and other noisy Instruments, that they might not be taken notice of whilft they were knocking off the

the Marshal's Chain, which at length they compassed. Then they removed the Stones they had before loofened in the Wall, making an Hole wide enough to get out at. When all things were thus ready, after Midnight, the Noise ceased, and they all rushed out with fuch Weapons and Provisions as they had; then making directly towards the Shore, where the Brigantine lay, as drawing little Water, and the Men in her fast asleep, nothing apprehending to be fo furprized, they eafily possessed themselves of it, and fpreading their Sails, directed their Course for Barcelona, where they happily arrived in a few Days, without any cross Accident.

There was great rejoycing at Barcelona upon the fafe Arrival of these Captives, and much more there would have been, had they known that the Marshal was one of them; for having heared no News of him in so long a time, it was universally concluded that he had been cast away at Sea. A Brother of his was then soliciting to be put into Possession of his Estate, which would have been granted, had not some Friends of the Marshal interpos'd, and demanded a longer respite. The Marshal, when he made his escape, had prevailed with those sew Persons that knew him, to conceal the same upon their

their arrival at Barcelona, refolving before he was known to repair to Valencia, to enquire how Matters stood with his beloved Gerarda. Accordingly, he took along with him none but that Laurence, who, as has been faid, was his Companion, whilft he had been employed as a Gardener at Algier. Laurence was to be Master, and the Marshal to act his Slave. At Valencia he foon met with one Felicianus, who had been formerly his Servant, to whom he discovered himself in private, and that his Design was to be fold as a Slave to the Marquis of Guadaleft, to the end he might by that means have the freer access to his admired Gerarda. Felicianus was amazed at that unaccountable Project, but promised to keep the Secret, and to ferve him to the utmost. In order to carry on this Defign, the Marshal went with Laurence to the Market-Place, where he was exposed to Sale, and several bid Money for him, yet none came up to the Price, till Felicianus having acquainted the Marquis of Guadalest that fuch a Slave was to be fold, he put for him, who feeing him fo much resemble his lost Friend, the Marshal, and that he was so graceful a Person, having asked his Name, which he faid was William, bought him at any rate, appointing that he should wait on him in his Chamber. The Money

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he was fold for carryed Laurence home at his ease to the City of Seville, where he had been born.

As foon as the Marquis had made the Purchase of the Marshal, he carried him to his Sifter, telling her, that besides the Service he was to do him, he might carry her in her Chair, with another Slave she had before. Gerarda fixing her Eyes on him, and eafily perceiving how like the Marshal he was, as being the same, declared she had such an Antipathy towards him, that he should never carry her. The Marquis was sensible of the Reason of her Aversion, and answered. He would keep him for his own Service. The amorous Marshal could not but be much concerned at Gerarda's Expressions; however, all he faid was this: 'I am very forry, Madam, that I came into this House in so unfortuonate an Hour, as that the very Sight of me ' should be offensive to the principal Person ' in it, without having been guilty of any thing to deserve it.' The Fault is not ' your's but Nature's, for having given you Face. Do you attend my Brother; and as ' if you fay, you would endeavour to oblige me, be fure to come into my Sight as feldom as may be, for that will be most plea-' fing to me.' This faid, fhe turned away into another Room in a disdainful manner. But

But the Marquis and his Slave well underflood from whence this proceeded; and it grieved the latter to the Heart to find her fo constant to her deceased Lover. However William, for fo we must call him, from that time was so diligent in the Service of his Master, that he gained his Affection, who accordingly favoured him very much. Felicianus before-mentioned, being Steward to the Marquis, and accordingly governing the Family, William was always underhand made much of, left the Servants should take notice of fo much Favour shewn to a Slave. liam was wont to wait on the Marquis abroad at Night, for he, being young, sometimes kept late Hours, and happening to be in some Rencounters his Slave stood bravely by him, which gained him the more Favour.

It is the Custom at Valencia, on Midsummer Day, for all the Ladies to take the Air in their Coaches, in a Place called el Grao, on the Sea-shore, after the manner of our Ring in Hyde-Park. Gerarda was there, with some of her Friends, in her Brother's Coach. It happened that the Flanders Mares, which drew her, on a sudden took a Fright, and running into the Sea, overthrew her in the Water. All the Company was alarmed, and many Men ran on to gaze, but the only Person that threw himself into the Water was Wil-

liam, who also happened to be present, and regarding no Danger, took her up out of the Coach in his Arms, and to carried her to a Cottage belonging to some Fishermen, which stood near the Shore. The other Ladies were afterwards faved by their Friends. The Marquis hasting to the Cottage found his Sifter still fenseless, and in that manner had her carried to a wealthy Citizen's Country house close by, where she was laid in a good Bed by other Ladies, and at length came to herfelf. As foon as recovered, she was informed by her Brother and Friends of the Danger she had been in, all of them extolling the Merits of the Slave, who had hazarded himself fo much to rescue her. The Marquis had refolved in confideration of this Service to give his Liberty; but thought that should rather be done by his Sifter; and in order to it, when they were returned to Valencia, and her Fright well over, he acquainted her with the fame, and advised she would return her Thanks to the Slave for his Fidelity, and promife him his Freedom at the Year's End. She, on the other hand knitting her Brow, and putting on a fcornful Look, answered, that the Slave had done no more than his Duty, for which she did not design to return him any Thanks; but if the Marquis did think fit to discharge him she should be well pleased,

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for it was likely he would not come into her Sight, than which fhe could defire no greater Satisfaction, as having a mortal Aversion for The Marquis was fo highly provoked at her Words, that to avoid letting fall fome difagreeable Expression, turned away in a passionate manner, and withdrew to his own Apartment. There he called William to him. and after having fignified how well pleafed he was with his Service in general, and particularly how much he valued him for his laft Generofity in faving his Sifter, at his own manifest Peril, declared he was at liberty to dispose of himself as he should think fit, either to ftay and ferve him still as a free Servant for Wages, or to take whatfoever other Course he should like best. William not only returned Thanks in the most obliging manner, but protested he would, if admitted, live and die in his Service. The Marquis could not forbear embracing, and at the same time declaring him one of his Gentlemen to attend him in his Bedchamber; but he could not be reconciled to his Sifter for her Ingratitude. being fenfible that it was grounded only on his refembling the Marshal, which she did not flick to own.

Nor was this unknown to William, but his greatest Affliction; and yet still he studied all means to oblige her, towards which another

ther Opportunity foon offered; for Gerarda going to divert herfelf in a Country-Seat of her Brother's, where he made a splendid Entertainment for her Friends, through some neglect among the Servants, the House took fire in the Night, and burnt directly upon the Ladies Apartment, fo that they knew not which way to run from, and in that Diffress nothing was heard but Shrieks and Lamen-William observing the inevitable Danger his Lady was in, without the least hesitation, rushed through the very Flames, and brought her out in his Arms, and returning again helped the other Ladies down by a Window, the Fire then pressing too hard behind. All Persons applauded his Generosity, and among them none more than the Marquis, only Gerarda still persisted in her Malice and Ingratitude, to fuch a Degree, that if he happened to be in the way where she was to pass, she would send him Orders to be gone and rather neglect the most important Affairs than confent that he should have any hand in them.

So implacable was her hatred, that the faving of her Life twice had not the least Effect on her, and yet Heaven appointed he should perform the same a third time, with no better Success. The Marquis's House being very ancient, and a violent Storm rising,

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it threw down one of the Turrets of the fam e which was directly over Gerarda's Chamber, where the was then fitting with her Maids. The fall of the Turret beat down the Roof of the Room, fo that they all lay buried in the Rubbith; yet Gerarda had the good Fortune, that a Rafter leaving an hollow space under it, preserved her Life. William immediately was at the Place, where after feveral trials in vain, he at last cleared a Passage to come at his Lady, tho' with imminent Danger of his own Life, had any Part of those Ruins, which hung most unaccountably, given way. Finding Gerarda quite beside herself with the Fright, he conveyed her to the Marquis's Bedchamber, where he laid her down. The Marquis, who was then abroad, coming home, thought he could never fufficiently express his Acknowledgment to his Servant, or represent the Obligation too feelingly to his Sifter, who on her part perfifting in her Obstinacy, made him no other Answer than this: 'That if he thought his Servant · had deferved any thing, he might reward him ' himself.' William being informed of her Cruelty, waited his Opportunity, till she happened to be quite alone, when coming into her Chamber, she severely reproved him for prefuming to come thither without her leave; to which he replied to this Effect: 'Madam, being fen-' fible that you bear a mortal hatred, I defign this

this shall be the last time I will ever appear before you. Your Aversion, I am well satisfied is not grounded on any Demerits of " mine, but on my refembling the Marshal, who in a just Quarrel killed the Person you · had pitched upon for an Husband, tho' against your Brother's Inclination. You are obliged to me for having faved your Life three feve-' ral times, with as much Affection as if I had been the very Marshal, who I understand ' loved you more entirely than the other you had made choice of. I do not wonder you ' should have so great an Aversion for a poor Slave that refembles him, fince he being of ' fuch high Quality could not obtain the least " modest Favour, tho' he sued for it in the ' most honourable manner. I am resolved to fly to some Place, where I may never more be heard of, to avoid putting others in mind that you are the most ungrateful Woman in the Universe. However, that you may not be ignorant who it is that has been your Servant, know that I am Don Garceran de Cardona, Marshal of Catalonia, whom you so · much hate. I fled from you on Account of the Marquis's Death, and was a Slave in · Algier, where my many Sufferings never · lessened the Love I bore you. I hazarded my Life in making my etcape, only to return to your Presence; and to crown all the rest of my Actions, caused myself to be sold a

& Slave to your Brother, folely for the Satisfaction of ferving you. What I have fince done is well known to you; and tho' I have fo often exposed my Life, all has been slighted by you, to the great Aftonishment of all this city. Thus I shall leave you, fully satisfy'd that the World cannot afford another Mon-' fter of Ingratitude equal to yourfelf. Fare-" well, for I believe I shall not long furvive the trouble that is upon me.' This faid, he turned away, full of Anguish, leaving her in a wonderful Confternation. The Marquis met him going out of the Room, and perceiving the great Disorder he was in, enquired what was the Occasion of it. 'The Marshal's Heart was fo full, that he could not utter one Word in answer to him; by which the Marquis eafily gueffed it must be something very extraordinary that had fuch an Effect on a Person of his undaunted Spirit; for which reason he led him by the Hand into his own Apartment, and being by themfelves fpoke thus to him. 'I am much furprized, William, to find ' you in this perplexity, coming out of my · Sifter's Lodgings, and defire you will inform e me what has been the Occasion, and whether Gerarda is in the fault, for I have fo great a Value for you, that it would give ' me much Uneafiness, if her ill usage were troublesome to you in my Service. I know her Disposition, that she is stern and scorn-· find,

ful, and shall not fail to reprove her, if she persists to set no Value on the Services you

have done her. This is the Reason why I

examine you, therefore do not conceal the

f Truth from me.'

William knew not what to answer him; for should he discover himself to him as he had done to her, still it was in vain, when the had declared her Aversion, to expect she should love him against her Inclination; whereupon he had refolved never to fee her more, fince she was so perverse and ungrateful, and accordingly all he faid to the Marquis was, 'That having attempted to go take his leave of her, upon finding how hateful he was to her, he had been denied Admittance, and was therefore refolved to remove to some Place where his Service ' might be more acceptable.' The Marquis was not fatisfied with his Answer, believing there was something more in that Affair; therefore shutting him up in his Chamber, went to enquire farther of Gerarda. William would have been better pleased if the Marquis had not been resolved to dive farther into the Matter; but there being no Remedy he was obliged to wait the refult of their Interview. The Marquis went directly to his Sifter, and faid to her, 'I met William going out of your Apartment in fuch an Agony, that the Tears stood in his Eyes, which 4 obliges

obliges me to come to you to know what has ' happened betwixt you; I beg you to tell " me the whole truth.' Gerarda concluding that he knew no more than what he hinted at, and accordingly shewing much Resentment, faying, 'That Slave came into my ' Chamber when I was in Bed, and I was very angry at his Impudence. I know not what he designed to say, for my Passion was so " much provoked, that I gave him no time to explain himfelf; fo that being feverely reproved, he went out as he came, and that was it perhaps that fretted him; a just Reward for his Infolence. If you have any ' Kindness for me, I beg you will immediate-'ly turn him out of Doors, for I hate him ' mortally. It is true, I owe him my Life, ' yet cannot thank him for it; you may be-' stow some Reward and turn him off.' Marquis was amazed at his Sifter's ill Nature, and therefore replied. 'I could not imagine that any Person so nobly born could be guilty of fuch vile Actions. Had this Man killed · me, and then thrice have faved your Life, ' it would have been an ample Satisfaction; whereas all his Offence is his being like the dearest Friend I had, who killed the Person vou had made choice of for your Husband, tho' he deferved it, as being the Aversion of all this City. His Pride made him ill beloved, and I could wish he were alive,

' that you might marry him, for by his Be-' haviour I am perswaded that you would be the most unhappy Woman on the Earth. He attempted to murder the Marshal, and received the Reward he deserved. William ' shall live in my House, tho' it fret you to the Heart; for if you have no regard to ' your Reputation, I will not facrifice mine, ' giving the World an Occasion to observe that 'I turn away a Servant, whom I am obliged ' in Honour to reward for his good Service. ' This is my Resolution; if you are displeased ' make the best of it, for so it shall be.' These Words blew up the Coals of Gerarda's Pailion, who thereupon in a Rage, faid; 'That Felby, prefuming on his likeness, has affured ' me that he is the Marshal, and that he came ' to ferve me as a Slave for the love of you. ' Do you judge, whether I ought not to be fny of an Impostor, that invents such a Story.' The Marquis was surprized at what she faid, and reply'd; 'Since he faid it, there is no doubt but that he has some reason for it.' I know of none, faid she; but the' what he · favs were true, I so little value what he has done for my fake, that I'll rather be accounted the most ungrateful of Women, ' than make him the least return.' The Marquis rather than answer her as she deserved, turned short, and went away to William, whom he acquainted with what had passed between him

his Sifter and himself. Gerarda's Malice pierced the amorous Marshal's Heart; and having paufed a little, he could no longer refrain delivering himself to this Effect: 'Most worthy Marquis, I cannot deny but that I am the Marshal of Catalonia, your particu-· lar Friend; the Alteration you fee in my ' Complexion, and the Brand on my Face, ' are the Effects of my Captivity, wherein I · fuffered much for my Faith, and yet never ' declined in my Affection for your Sifter. · Having made my escape I contrived to serve · you as a Slave, in order to oblige Gerarda, being afraid to be known by reason of the · Marquis's Death. Some natural antipathy, it is likely, renders her averse to me, so that I must submit, and beg you will give · me leave to return to my own Country, where I defign to lead a fingle Life, and leave my Estate to my Brother.' Having so said, for a Confirmation of the truth thereof, he told the Marquis some private Passages that had been between them, when he was before in Valencia. It is impossible to express the Marquis's Joy upon finding a Friend he had so great a Value for, whom he had given over for dead; and after repeated Embraces he said to him; 'My Sifter, like a positive ' and fenfeless Woman, has not regarded your Worth; but I will take upon me to requite her Ingratitude; in order to which I will now.

now put that in execution, which I contrived during your Absence, which if you will not confent to you will forfeit my Friendship for ever: The late Marquis, your Adversary, has a most beautiful Sister, excellently qualified; I had proposed that you should marry her, to reconcile the two ' Families. I will now bring this to Perfec-' tion, leave it to me, for you shall not depart ' Valencia without a Wife that will love and honour you. Do not offer to oppose it; this must be; and as for Gerarda, she shall never ' marry whilft I live, but be glad to go into ' a Monastery.' The Marshal had nothing to object against the Marquis's Proposal; for her Pride and Ingratitude had changed his Love into Dislike, or rather Aversion. He kept close in the House, whilst the Marquis treated with his Adversaries about his marrying Luciana, Sifter to the dead Marquis, and the Match being advantageous all Things were foon concluded. The Vice-Roy was acquainted with the Contract, and thereupon a Pardon eafily obtained, both Parties foliciting When Gerarda was informed of this Match it grieved her to the Heart, and much more when she understood that the Wedding was celebrated, at which there was extraordinary rejoycing, Entertainments, Balls Musick, and all other Diversions. Gerarda was at none of them, being much ashamed of the ill Character she had gained, and to hear how much the Marshal was applauded. The End of it was, that an ancient Kinswoman of hers having at a Visit she made reproved her for her vile Ingratitude, she took it so to Heart, that she soon fell into fainting Fits. The Physicians being called at the first Sight concluded her Distemper mortal, as it proveds for no Medicines being of force to remove the Malignity, it carried her off in a very sew Days, altogether unlamented by reason of her ill Nature. The Marshal carried his Wife into Catalonia, where they both lived very happily many Years.

FINIS.

